

(c) whether Government have constituted the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that Doordarshan has undertaken a restructuring exercise of its programming on DD-National Channel, with a view to meeting its mandate as a Public Service Broadcaster and to ensure that it is in a position to generate revenue to gradually become self-supporting. They are, discussing with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the future telecast arrangements of educational programmes of "Gyan-Darshan" Channel produced by various agencies like UGC, IGNOU, CIET etc.

(b) The Supreme Court in their Judgement dated 9.2.95 in the case of Union of India Vs. Cricket Association of Bengal had asked the Government to establish an independent autonomous public authority, representative of all sections and interests in the society, to control and regulate the use of the airwaves.

(c) to (e) To set up an autonomous Broadcasting Authority for facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in the country, the Broadcasting Bill, 1997, was introduced in Parliament on 16.5.97. The Bill was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee but before the JPC could finalize its report, the Parliament was dissolved and consequently the Bill lapsed. The Group of Ministers on Telecom and IT Convergence is now considering a draft statute which will regulate the Telecommunication, Broadcasting and Multimedia.

Launching of Educational FM Radio Network

1603. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to launch the educational FM Radio Network of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cities where it would be started in the near future and when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Indira Gandhi National

Open University (IGNOU) under the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been granted licences for operating FM Educational Channel in 40 centres as per details given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) To begin with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has initiated action to commission GYANVANI stations at Lucknow, Coimbatore and Visakhapatnam by end of 2001.

Statement

List of FM educational Channel Centres

Sl. No.	Centre	Sl. No.	Centre
1.	Calcutta	21.	Guwahati
2.	Chennai	22.	Jabalpur
3.	Delhi	23.	Jaipur
4.	Mumbai	24.	Jalandhar
5.	Ahemadabad	25.	Jamnagar
6.	Bangalore	26.	Kanpur
7.	Hyderabad	27.	Ludhiana
8.	Indore	28.	Madurai
9.	Lucknow	29.	Mysore
10.	Pune	30.	Nagpur
11.	Visakhapatnam	31.	Panaji
12.	Agra	32.	Patna
13.	Allahabad	33.	Raipur
14.	Aurangabad	34.	Rajkot
15.	Bhopal	35.	Shillong
16.	Bhubaneshwar	36.	Srinagar
17.	Chandigarh	37.	Trichy
18.	Cochin	38.	Tirunelveli
19.	Coimbatore	39.	Trivandrum
20.	Cuttack	40.	Varanasi

Chief of Doordarshan Kendra, Srinagar

1604. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan Kendra, Srinagar (J and K) is being headed by a Deputy Director rank officer, who is a litigant against the Prasar Bharati in many court cases;